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COMMENTS TO FCC RE: MEDIA OWNERSHIP

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As a citizen I am concerned about the erosion of the freedom of the press for the people of our country as a result of the potential of less rules, thereby allowing corporate mergers of the various media. The owners of media want more freedom of the press with less FCC rules; I see their goal as freedom to control the media.

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Two examples raised my concern about the people's first Amendment right of freedom of the press.

Last summer I read in our local family owned Seattle Times that the Administration stated that in its war on terrorism there would be times that disinformation would be given to the media from the government to keep the terrorists off guard. When asked if that meant that disinformation (lies) would be given to the American public as well, the answer was yes—in order to guarantee the security of the American people.

Recently, the White House invited certain news media commentators together, omitting some. Following the meeting, it was announced that there would not be coverage by reporters in Iraq in the impending war.

I did not hear of either of these news items on the three major TV networks, the major media news source of the American people. In light of this kind of suppression of what is going on, I believe that we need more independent voices to inform us people, not less. Freedom and democracy ~~are~~ *are*

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ultimately up to the people, but the people need to have adequate input to make intelligent decisions.

In 1959 I visited a friend's brother in Stuttgart who served in the German army in WWII. I asked him what he thought about Germany and the Allies before, during and after the war. I have never forgotten his answer. He said, "When you know only from one hand, you think that is the truth. But when you learn from both hands, then you can decide what is truth. But by then it was too late."

As a citizen who values the rights of the first Amendment for my grandchildren as well as myself and all citizens, I want to be able to learn "from both hands."